



**The ROYAL COLLEGE of  
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS**

OST Curriculum 2024

## Level 4 Learning Outcomes and descriptors

Patient Management Domain

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*The Royal College of Ophthalmologists is a registered charity in England and Wales (299872) and in Scotland (SC045652)*

## Oculoplastics and Orbit (i)

Level 4	
Learning Outcome	Descriptors
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:</i>	
<b>Demonstrate advanced clinical management and surgical skills.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demonstrate competency in diagnosis, investigation and management of adnexal, lacrimal and orbital disease in outpatients, inpatients and emergency settings.</li> <li>▪ Have knowledge of the indicators for, use of, and limitations of pharmacological, radiological, and surgical therapies that may be recommended for patients with orbit, eyelid, lacrimal, and associated disorders.</li> <li>▪ Examine the nasal and lacrimal system with speculum and endoscope.</li> <li>▪ Perform adnexal, lacrimal and selected orbital surgery independently including, but not exclusively:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Entropion and ectropion repair, surgery for trichiasis, ptosis surgery, brow ptosis surgery, incisional and excisional biopsy and peri-ocular reconstruction</li> <li>- Sac wash-out, punctal dilation and plug insertion, routine external dacryocystorhinostomy (DCR) and lacrimal stenting/ intubation</li> <li>- Anterior orbital biopsy</li> <li>- Enucleation and evisceration</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Perform temporal artery biopsy and understand the indications, limitations, technique and risks of the procedure. Use ultrasonography techniques to locate the temporal artery prior to its biopsy.</li> <li>▪ Know how to handle tissue samples to increase the diagnostic yield and liaise with laboratory staff so that the specimens are correctly identified, presented and transported.</li> <li>▪ Undertake prospective audit of specialist surgical outcomes in adnexal, lacrimal and orbital disease, especially in areas where national standards exist.</li> <li>▪ Maintain a record of activities, using the RCOphth electronic logbook.</li> </ul>
<b>Manage the complexity and uncertainty of oculoplastics cases.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Understand and apply advanced knowledge of adnexal, lacrimal and orbital conditions and practice.</li> <li>▪ Independently manage oculoplastic and orbital disease clinics and theatre lists.</li> <li>▪ Diagnose and manage complex adnexal, lacrimal and orbital conditions including, but not limited to:</li> </ul>

- Revision of previous surgery
- Dacryoadenitis, dacryocystitis and lacrimal gland and sac masses
- Pre-septal and orbital cellulitis, with prompt liaison with appropriate colleagues to facilitate management
- Thyroid eye disease and the management of active as well as severe disease, with knowledge of when to involve a multi-disciplinary team
- Utilise advanced imaging studies where indicated (e.g. CT, MRI, magnetic resonance angiogram [MRA], positron emission tomography [PET]-CT, bone scan, arteriography, ultrasound).
- Apply knowledge and skills in a flexible manner.
- Utilise existing skills to novel situations.
- Attend local multidisciplinary team meetings to discuss cases.
- Adapt management strategies to take account of patient's informed preferences, particular circumstances, age and co-morbidities, respecting patient autonomy.

**Apply management and team working skills appropriately, including in complex, dynamic situations.**

- Use highly developed consultation skills efficiently to manage busy clinics whilst managing patient expectations.
- Assist with decision-making where there are cognitive impairment barriers, employing Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) services or equivalent if necessary.
- Understand how culture or religious beliefs can affect patients' decision-making and needs, and communicate these effectively to the team.
- Be sensitive to social situations and the impact these may be having on the patient, their carers and their disease.
- Understand when information must be shared more widely with schools, carers, police, etc. and understand the responsibilities and implications of sharing information.
- Receive and respond to communications in complex or challenging situations.
- Give specialist advice to non-oculoplastic specialists.
- Liaises and support colleagues from other special interest areas, particularly cornea and ocular surface disease, to optimise patient care.
- Promote professional values within the team.
- Work as a collaborative member of a team, respecting differences of opinion.
- Accept constructive and appropriately framed criticism.
- Support colleagues.
- Be an advocate for patients.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Manage significant events and complaints, including writing formal reports.</li> <li>▪ Understand and follow local policies in response to complaints.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Be an effective supervisor, teacher and trainer of oculoplastic cases.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participate in education/training of medical students/junior trainees, and allied health professionals in adnexal, lacrimal and orbital disease.</li> <li>▪ Supervise and accredit/sign off trainees to Level 3 in adnexal, lacrimal and orbital disease. This includes supervising simple adnexal and lacrimal procedures and surgery to Level 3.</li> <li>▪ Supervise allied professionals in the delivery of oculoplastic and orbital care under guidance of local governance policies.</li> </ul>

The indicative time for training at this level is **up to 18 months** of full-time equivalent.